

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE 4A

USA TODAY  
2 November 1983

# U.S. covert actions not a Wise choice

David Wise, a low-keyed, bespectacled expert on international espionage, knows spies and their ways like most of us know our local bus route.

Wise, a former New York *Herald-Tribune* reporter, got interested in espionage when the Soviets captured Gary Powers' spy plane in the early 1960s. Since then, he has written or co-authored several books on spying and the intelligence community. He also has become increasingly alarmed over U.S. covert operations whose aim, he said, is "to manipulate history in our favor."

Wise was particularly disturbed by President Reagan's announcement that the U.S. had very little intelligence information about conditions on the island of Grenada.

"I find that intelligence gap to be both astonishing and disturbing," said Wise. "We're spending over \$12 billion a year on American intelligence and if we can't gather adequate intelligence on the smallest island nation in the Western Hemisphere ... then where can we gather intelligence?"

In Wise's latest work, he has

## WASHINGTON SCENE

By KAREN DE WITT

turned to fiction. In the book, *The Children's Game*, he incorporates not only his knowledge of the inner workings of the CIA, but also his concerns about the place of secrecy and intelligence operations in a democracy.

Wise's new novel is based on an actual event — The Halloween Massacre of 1977 when 800 "old boys," or clandestine agents of the CIA were fired or forced out. In the novel, a number of these "old boys" band together and are using their skills, and the help of someone inside the agency, to sabotage the agency and take it over. The hero, a former spy, is dra-

gooned back into the CIA to try and find the mole whose betrayal of the agency's covert operations could destroy the agency itself.

Wise, who has testified before Congress on issues of secrecy and classification of information, first came to prominence as the co-author of the 1964 bestseller, *The Invisible Government*. The book, which the agency tried to suppress and then discount, is widely credited with bringing about a reappraisal of the CIA.

"Information is power and in a world of information, you're always going to have spies," said Wise.



By David Hathcox  
**AUTHOR:** David Wise keeps his eye on espionage.